

Herculaneum Focus Group

The Herculaneum Focus Group on interior dust grew out of concerns expressed by the Community Advisory Group (CAG) that the home interior cleanups being performed were not protective and a need to have site specific interior dust clearance levels and response procedures for Herculaneum. Also, a large body of literature was brought to the attention of the CAG questioning the standards and their applicability to an active lead smelter site with the potential for recontamination.

The interior cleanups are being done to meet the EPA/HUD standards for residential lead based paint abatement. During the ongoing recontamination sampling efforts by R7, concentrations of lead in carpets were not consistent with the lead loading data used to compare to the standards. R7 had run the IEUBK model for the site specific conditions in Herculaneum and found that concentrations of lead in carpet dust far exceeded the values derived by the model and that home were becoming recontaminated.

The Herculaneum Focus Group was formed in October 2002, and Doe Run has been a participant since its inception. Other focus group participants included the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS), Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and citizens of the community. EPA provided funding through the START contract to facilitate the meeting and acquire the participation of the two, lead-dust experts.

The experts were required to submit a final report to the Focus Group providing their conclusions and recommendations on interior lead dust at the site. EPA has discussed the focus group objectives and experts' findings with the Lead Technical Work Group (TRW) and our R7 risk assessment staff. EPA has submitted a request for a Health Consultation to ATSDR and MDHSS to which the experts final report is attached. The Health Consultation request reflects the unique circumstances at the Herculaneum site and health agency conclusions and recommendations will likely only apply to this site. No formal peer review was undertaken.

Ninety (90) homes have had interiors cleaned, of which 12 would require recleaning/additional action if the lower lead-dust clearance standards were implemented.

In conclusion, there is a potential for a health consultation to be delivered that recommends adopting a lowering of interior, lead-dust clearance standards **(at only the Herculaneum site)** which would result in the re-cleaning of 12 home interiors and the removal/replacement of carpets in some homes that have been previously cleaned and that will be cleaned in the future.

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